

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 3, 6 – 10 and 15 remain in this application. Claims 4, 5, 11 – 14, and 16 – 37 have been withdrawn as a result of an earlier restriction requirement. Claims 38 – 41 are canceled without prejudice. In view of the examiner's earlier restriction requirement, applicant retains the right to present claims 4, 5, 11 – 14, and 16 – 37 in a divisional application.

Applicants point out that the Examiner does not list claim 15 as being withdrawn, but also does not list claim 15 as pending. Applicants have not withdrawn or canceled claim 15, and claim 15 is properly pending. As the Examiner has included claim 15 in the first rejection for obviousness (paragraph 8 of the present Office Action), Applicants assume the omission of claim 15 from the Disposition of Claims is a typographical error on the Office Action Summary.

§ 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Application No. 2002/0135728 (Tatsuta et al).

The Examiner asserts that Tatsuta discloses a display device including a display substrate of thin glass plate, non-alkali glass plate each of which is less than 1 mm in thickness on a plastic support substrate. The Examiner argues further that "Tatsuta et al also teach fixing a thin glass plate onto a plastic substrate, which resemble[s] the claimed support substrate removably attached."

Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection.

The Examiner points to paragraphs 0004 and 0006 for support. Paragraph 0004 merely discloses the use of thin glass sheets as display substrates for liquid crystal displays. Paragraph 0004 does not disclose having a supporting substrate removably attached to the display substrate. With regard to paragraph 0006 what is disclosed is the use of a barrier layer to maintain the performance of the liquid crystals when a plastic display substrate is used in a liquid crystal device (see paragraph 0005). A thin glass plate may be used for this purpose (paragraph 0006), as may a resin or an inorganic compound. However, this barrier layer is not removable, and is not intended to be. To

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do so would destroy the sought after barrier properties. Indeed, paragraph 0007 points out the difficulty with thin glass plates as barrier layers, as they are prone to breaking.

For at least these reasons, Tatsuta fails to disclose each and every limitation of Applicants' claim 1 and that claim 1 is novel and patentable over Tatsuta. Applicants assert that claims 2 – 3 and 6 – 10, which depend from claim 1, are therefore also patentable.

§ 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 15 and 38-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Application No. 2002/0135728 (Tatsuta et al) in light of U.S. Patent No. 4,925,708 (Waters et al).

The Examiner asserts that Tatsuta discloses but fails to explicitly show liquid crystal material disposed between first and second display substrate. Waters et al shows upper and lower boundary layers of 511 and 512 of transparent layer and liquid crystal material is disposed in between the two transparent layers.

Tatsuta fails to disclose not only liquid crystal material disposed between first and second display substrates, but as discussed above, also does not disclose a removable support substrate attached to the display substrate. Waters does not cure this deficiency. Applicants assert therefore that claims 1-3 and 15 are nonobvious and patentable over Tatsuta in view of Waters et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Application No. 2002/0135728 (Tatsuta et al) in light of WO 02/096577.

The Examiner asserts that WO 02/096577 teaches the use of recyclable glass substrate for reducing processing cost as well as reducing environmental load. However, for at least the reasons given above, WO 02/096577 does not cure the deficiencies of Tatsuta. Applicants assert therefore that claims 6 – 10 are nonobvious and patentable over Tatsuta in view of WO 02/096577.

Based upon the above amendments, remarks and papers of records, Applicants believe the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorize the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge

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with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Kevin M. Able at 607-974-2637.

Respectfully submitted,



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